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German Democratic Republic

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WISMUT, A.G. (German; 2 pp; [REDACTED])

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This [REDACTED] the Wismut, AG. The Wismut AG is organized into a series of projects which are sub-divided into combines. For instance, in the Plauen region there are the following: Project 14, Combine I, Schneckenstein, 1,200 workers; Project 14, Combine II, Zobes, 684 workers; Project 6, Combine I, Schneckenstein, 2,000 workers; Project 6, Combine II, Zobes, 1,600 workers. Project 14 is concerned with the digging of shafts and tunnels, and project 6 does the mining.

Altogether Wismut employs 220,000 - 250,000 German workers. They are under continuous Soviet guard. All shafts are surrounded by barbed wire. Each worker has a small numbered metal plate, which he exchanges for a pass upon entering the shaft. These ~~passes~~ <sup>Russian passes</sup> never leave the shaft, except those of political functionaries.

Project 14, Combine II, Zobes This Combine is only two years old, but at present it is a point of concentration, since very productive ore veins are expected to be found there. Women, with a few exceptions, are not employed for underground work. (At Johanngeorgenstadt about 800 women work underground). The average fulfillment of norms ~~is~~ amounts to 60 percent. This low percentage is caused by poor work organization.

The following are some of the positions at the Combine which are filled by Germans: bookkeepers (bookkeeping of the project management is done only by Russians), one chief engineer, one raise foreman per shaft, one area raise foreman per shaft and level, one deputy shaft manager. Soviets have positions everywhere in the combine, and whenever anything happens they always put the blame on the Germans.

Political Organization The SED (Socialist Unity Party), FDGB (Free German Trade Union Federation, and FDJ (Free German Youth) are active in the Wismut AG. An average of 5 percent of the workers are members of the SED, and 40 percent of the FDGB. Many are using the present ~~order~~ <sup>excuse</sup> to quietly leave the SED and FDGB. There is little political activity, since the workers do not hide their aversion to it. A political officer, who at the same time is the chief of the local Soviet Secret Police office, is assigned to each project to watch over its organization. The Party has its men [undercover agents] throughout the administration who report on everything that occurs in the enterprise.

General Working Conditions In Schneeberg, one of the shafts runs right under the Filz Teich [a moor] and only unmarried workers are employed there.

The ~~emptied~~ <sup>exhausted</sup> shafts are not being filled but remain empty. As a matter of fact, the wooden reinforcements are being re-used for new shafts and layers. Accidents are quite frequent. Most of them are cave-ins. Rescue equipment is most inadequate. - Despite constant guard, incidents of sabotage are frequent; e.g. damage on miner's trucks, cutting of cables, thefts of light bulbs, etc. The workers have to undergo a rigorous check upon leaving the shaft, so that no ore is taken out.

The only holidays observed are the First of May, Day of Liberation, and Founding of the GDR. Christmas, New Year, etc. are not observed.

[Foreign language document or microfilm of it [REDACTED] is available in the CIA Library, [REDACTED]

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